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REFUGES MOST IMPORTANT IN
SAVING WILD LIFE, SAYS REDINGTON

Establishment of sanctuaries for birds will do more for their welfare than any other one thing, Paul G. Redington, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, told the members of the Izaak Walton League, a national organization of persons interested in hunting and fishing, at their annual convention in Omaha, April 20. "While restrictions are necessary," he said, "I feel that I am safe in saying that they take second place to a carefully worked out system of refuges, and I am glad to say that progress has been made in this respect within the last year."

Unanimity of the League and other sportsmen in favor of the flooding of the Bear River Marshes of Utah has brought results in the current session of Congress, Mr. Redington said, and legislation to make the Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas a permanent refuge for waterfowl is now pending. Also before Congress is legislation to hasten completion of the purchase of land within the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, which, Mr. Redington said, "was conceived and made possible by the influence of the Izaak Walton League of America." Another measure for which the League has worked is the McNary-Swaeney Bill for a study of relationships between the forests and wild life. The Budget Bureau approved it as did the Senate committee. "We are all hopeful," he added, "that the bill may be put on the statute books at this session of Congress."

In particular Mr. Redington thanked the League and other sportsmen for the aid they gave the Biological Survey in one of the Central States where violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were

numerous and where attempts had been made to do away with the game warden and to demolish his power boat. The League sent letters to all chapters in the State urging support of the authorities, and a notable improvement followed.

Mr. Redington's address reviewed many of the activities of the Bureau of Biological Survey for the past year and needs and plans for the future. "The Federal Government alone can not be depended upon to solve the many problems of wild life administration." Facts and cooperative effort are needed, to provide a basis for a long time program of conservation, including studies of food habits of migratory birds of which only a few have been completed, and which will be a guide to formulation of a refuge program. Other activities have been surveys of areas available for refuges; studies of propagation of game birds; plans for studies of the feeding habits of animals along lines similar to those undertaken in connection with the Jackson Hole elk; the organization of the waterfowl census, which is now under way and enjoying the cooperation of sportsmen throughout the country; and the bird banding work, in which more than 1,200 sportsmen and bird students are aiding the bureau. In this connection Mr. Redington mentioned that ducks banded on the celebrated Cheyenne Bottoms of Kansas were retaken in 16 States, three provinces of Canada, in Alaska and in Mexico.

Mr. Redington also made a plea for sympathetic support of the new Alaska Game Commission. "Seldom has such an opportunity been given to those interested in the perpetuation of our big game animals to unite their efforts in the establishment of a well-balanced and effective game administration program as can be done in Alaska."